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24 JUN 1959

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Jackson:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Report by the Study Group on Asian and African Languages, initiated by the 1958 NATO Parliamentarians' Conference. I am very much interested in the substance of this Report and also in your views about it.

The Central Intelligence Agency has been deeply concerned for a long time about the problem to which this study is addressed. The small numbers of persons available to us who are skilled in Asian and African studies, and the acute shortage of facilities for training others, have presented some very real problems. The growing importance of these areas has served in recent years to increase the competition for such skills without providing a corresponding increase in their supply.

The concepts and proposals contained in the Report appear quite sound. I would heartily endorse them in principle. The specific recommendations on which you invited comment deserve prompt and favorable action. I would also hope that the recommendations in the concluding paragraph of the Report will receive the favorable attention they merit.

In addition to the preliminary measures noted in the Report for carrying out the programs envisioned, it would be useful to have an inventory of the human and institutional resources available to support them so that some order of priority can be established for the language and area studies to be pursued. In this way, added impetus can be given to the programs at their very outset.

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I read with interest your remarks on American language deficiencies published in the Congressional Record for 17 June 1959. This Agency has long been aware of the seriousness of this problem and has established a program for its employees to develop language proficiency. I enclose material describing this program for your information. You will note that on the first page we emphasize the same Asian and African languages you spoke of in your remarks to the Senate.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosure

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Note: Col. White concurred informally on clearslip from General Counsel.
6/23/59

O/DTR (22 June 1959)
Rewritten: OGC/LC:LRH:mks (23 June 1959)

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